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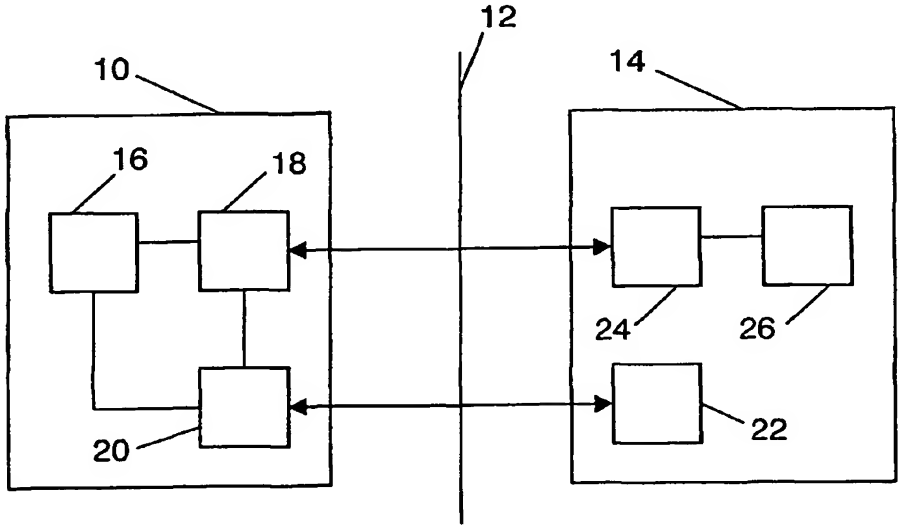
[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FORESTALLING LONG TIME-OUTS IN PROCESSES



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods, devices, systems and computer program products which avoid long time-outs in processes run on two or more computers. A first computer (10) comprises an application unit (16) performing computational tasks, and a status determining unit (20) connected to the application unit. The status determining unit sends a request for status to a second computer (14), which second computer is to perform some computational tasks for the application unit, and automatically blocks request for processing of data to the second computer if no response is received from the second computer, where the request for processing is caused by the application. The second computer comprises an application unit (26) performing the computational tasks and a status responding unit (22) which receives the request for status from the first computer, generates at least one response to the request, and sends the response to the first computer.

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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BARBARA ASELMEIER & ALTER: "NETZWERK-KUNSTPROJEKT IM INTERNET" HANDSHAKE, 'Online! 1993 - 1994, XP002278604 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://sero.org/sero/various/documents/handshake100400.pdf> 'retrieved on 2004-04-29! page 3, line 1 -page 3, line 6 ---	1,8, 14-18
A	US 6 246 666 B1 (PURCELL BRIAN T ET AL) 12 June 2001 (2001-06-12) column 1, line 1 -column 3, line 29 column 2, line 65 -column 3, line 29 column 6, line 16 -column 7, line 21 figure 1 --- -/--	1-18

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 035 709 A (MARCONI COMM LTD) 13 September 2000 (2000-09-13) column 1, line 1 -column 2, line 13	1-18
A	US 6 272 648 B1 (FINDLAY BRUCE ET AL) 7 August 2001 (2001-08-07) column 1, line 32 -column 5, line 62	1-18

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